

From: DrewLM@aol.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/16/01 5:13pm
Subject: Microsoft antitrust settlement

Dear sirs:

I respectfully would like to tell you that the settlement you have arranged with Microsoft IS BAD!

"Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates on Thursday defended the settlement as tough but one that "we're really pleased to have." Nine other states led by California, Iowa and Connecticut rejected it and will ask U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly to impose tougher penalties during hearings next year."

This statement from today's AP news say it all. Can the DOJ honestly say the settlement is one that "we're really pleased to have."? I don't think so. You just think that it is all you can get without taking it through the courts, where you know you would end up getting much more. Then why is Bill Gates saying it?

"The department promised in its 1995 settlement that it would "end Microsoft's unlawful practices that restrain trade and perpetuate its monopoly power." Yet as Sporkin rejected it, he complained that, "simply telling a defendant to go forth and sin no more does little or nothing to address the unfair advantage it has already gained."

This statement from the AP also sums it up. Microsoft is NOT repentant. They have been screwing small companies since before 1995 and still continue to do so. They have no interest in competition for the public good and will continue any other noncompetitive way to wield their monopoly to gain market share in any area possible. All the current settlement does is tell them to go and sin no more. If they had actually been penalized the first time, they might not have sinned again ... and again ... and again. By not penalizing them now, you are telling them that they can do anything they want, knowing that the worst that will happen is that they won't be allowed to do it anymore.

How can you think about all the companies that Microsoft has forced under by including similar software in Windows at "no extra cost", and say that this settlement is fair and that Microsoft should not be punished.

Don't fool yourselves, this settlement is only a slap on the wrist to Microsoft and DOES NOT PUNISH THEM AT ALL.

The only way to punish Microsoft and to be sure that they cannot do this again is to break them into two companies: Operating System and Application Software. They used their OS monopoly to create software against which no

other company could compete, e.g., MS Office, Internet Explorer, Disk Scan,
Disk Defragmenter, etc.

This settlement is only in the best interests of Microsoft, not the public,
and should not be pursued.

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